

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 6:30PM

This Meeting is IN PERSON (Town Hall) For Board Members With the Exception of the
Occurrence of Extraordinary Circumstances

IN PERSON and VIRTUAL for the Public

Google Meet joining info: meet.google.com/tqz-efzm-xbh

Join By Phone: (US)+1 224-814-1308 PIN: 632 413 079#

PRESENT

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Vance Pitkin, Abi Mesick Destiny Hallenbeck, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea,

VIRTUAL

Councilman Destiny Hallenbeck

ABSENT

Councilman [Rick Werwaiss](#)

• **RECORDING NOTICE**

Supervisor Collins called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

*Ron McFarlane spoke to the Board regarding Percy Hill Rd. He understands that it's expensive to pave dirt roads and that there is opposition to paving but Highway could use a different material on the road. Percy Hill is in poor condition. He wants other material on the road that's not "slimy" when it's wet. When it rains water runs down both sides of the road. He'd really like to see it paved, then the Town could put a speed limit on it. He figured he'd bring his comments/concerns to the source, the Board. Donal asked if he brought this to the attention of the highway Superintendent? Yes, McFarlane responded.

Michael Allen, from Regrowth, joined virtually. Allen and the CPRUC have been working very hard to put all the information into the first draft and the draft is finally ready. A copy will be on the website, in the libraries and town hall and a Q and A is scheduled for 02/11/23 (rain date Feb. 18). Mesick wants the public to know all about the Comp Plan and start to re-engage with the project. There will be an opportunity for the public to read and comment on the first draft, then those comments will be incorporated into the second draft. Comments can be submitted online. Donal thanks everyone for their input and for their work on the Committee. Mesick thanked Michael Allen, committee members and community for their participation.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Property Tax Exemptions- March 1st deadline . Check out the Assessors website for more information.

- **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. ECFC Re: Thank You for ARPA
2. Thomas Road Re: Road Grader Operator Compliments

- **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Broadband Committee- (Councilman Pitkin/Councilwoman Hallenbeck)
They met on Jan 12, Mike Tucker, from the County, would be supplying information on behalf of the residents of the County to the National Broadband Database. There is nothing new to report on the State developing criteria for releasing funds for additional broadband buildouts. Hallenbeck proposed that they ask the Board to expand their scope to include researching cell phone service town wide. The next meeting is Feb 9. Hallenbeck shared that of the billion dollars in the State budget that was allocated towards broadband 800 of that is earmarked as federal funding which will not be allocated until the federal maps are done. The information that Mike Tucker sent to the FCC will contribute to those maps.
2. CAP (Chatham Agricultural Partnership)- (Supervisor Collins)
Donal reported that they haven't met since harvest dinner.
3. Climate Smart/Action Task Force Committee- (Councilman Werwaiss)
Absent
4. Communications Committee- (Councilwoman Mesick)
Working on the 8 edition of the newsletter. We have the 2nd installment of the Always Ready series featuring TriVillage. We're having difficulty with connecting the OWL for hybrid meetings and requests that there be a tutorial on how to connect so DONAL doesn't have to hookup every meeting.
5. Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee- (Councilwoman Mesick/Councilwoman Hallenbeck)
We have the first draft in front of the public. They've talked with Adam Bosch about the tension that Mesick perceives in the community regarding income inclusive housing, workforce housing and housing for young people who would like to remain in town. The Committee can convene a learning season to help understand some of the housing issues better and include the Housing Committee. Hallenbeck thanked Abi as well as the members of the CPURC . .
6. Finance & Planning Committee- (Supervisor Collins)
David Levow reported they didn't meet last month.
7. Housing Committee- (Councilwoman Hallenbeck/Councilwoman Mesick)
Hallenbeck reported that they had their introductory meeting to set the agenda. They talked about a myriad of options for affordable housing and their vision for the Town. They'd like to have Adam Bosch at their next meeting. The Comprehensive Plan should hopefully be approved then they'll go through it to see what the mandate is for housing and how it can be implemented. It's a pressing need so it's all hands on deck.
8. Parks & Recreation Committee- (Councilman Pitkin)
Jay Thorne and Tim Mackerer worked on preparing access to the skating pond. The Frozen Folly will take place on February 18 from 1-4PM weather permitting. Barring any objections from the Town Board. MOTION was made by Collins to proceed with the event, Mesick seconded. Motion carried. Work continues on Crellin Park Day. Under the banner of town recreation Jay Thorne brought the idea that the Chatham Dirt Road Coalition had raised enough money to hire Crawford and Associates to inspect the closed Spangler Bridge, to determine the viability of repairing it for pedestrian bike and horse traffic. Stay tuned.

Pitkin is delighted to announce that Tim Mackerer has agreed to co-chair the Parks and Recreation Committee, board, approval needed.

9. Grants Appropriations Committee (Councilman Werwaiss)

No report.

10. CAC (Councilman Werwaiss/Councilwoman Mesick)

Mesick -Their prime directive right now is the completion of the Community Preservation Plan which was started in 2020 as an effort to preserve farmland. CAP started the Plan and they are finishing. The february meeting

11. Town & County (Supervisor Collins)

Presented his lengthy report on County and Town business:

Recruitment and retention is improving

Covid situation is better than last year at this time. Test kits and masks available at TH.

Louisiana trip planned for February

Occupancy tax - align them with some of the other hotels and bed and breakfasts in the area. Originally, we're going to go autonomously and try to get a state approval for legislation to do so, but we have just learned of a state law coming from Senator Hinche's office. So this may be the state working with municipalities on taxation and regulation and short term rentals. The state would do an 8% hotel tax kick back for the county in towns. But it looks like they may be interested in doing a little more with as far as monitoring. It would create a statewide registry for STRs. THis is not yet a law.

It still has to pass both the Senate and Assembly and be signed by the governor. So not final yet but it has been introduced, it's s885.

East Chatham Bridge - finally got notice that we can close the project out and seek all reimbursement.

Hartigan Rd. bridge scheduling meeting with DOT.

Flooding on neighboring property after the start of the Art Omi project began.

Round 6 grant funding did not receive the funding but it was a learning experience.

Neighbors complained about the cell tower on Harmon Heights (aka Frankenpine) There was an extension added to the existing tower and there was miscommunication with the building department and the ZBA.... Work on improving communications when these applications come in.

Collins attended the officer swearing in at the East Chatham fire department, it was an honor.

• **REPORTS ON FILE:**

1. Assessor
2. Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
3. Dog Control
4. Environmental Mgt Council
5. Finance Department
6. Highway Department
7. Justice Court
8. Office of the Aging Advisory Board
9. Recreation Director
10. Supervisor's Report
11. Town Clerk

• **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Broadband Committee: Cellular Service Study
Hallenbeck wants to expand the scope of the Committee to include cellular

• **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Community Preservation Plan entertaining it a month from now.
2. Comprehensive Plan Update: Michael Allen Document Hand-off, Timeline
3. Restore NY Round 6 Funding
We did apply for a grant for Columbia Box Board but did not receive the funding.

• **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution#52-23: To Approve the Town Board Minutes.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board approves the Town Board Minutes for December 1 and December 15, 2022.

Offered by: Hallenbeck, seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE: AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck

NAY: None **Resolution adopted**

2. **Resolution#53-23: To Accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor Report for December, 2022.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Hallenbeck

VOTE: AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck

NAY: None **Resolution adopted**

3. **Resolution#54-23: To Accept the Financial Abstract as presented to pay the Town Bills.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Financial Abstract #14 and #1A as presented to pay the Town Bills.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Pitkin

VOTE: AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck

NAY: None **Resolution adopted**

Resolution#55-23: To Approve 2022 Budget Amendments.

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board approves the 2022 Budget Amendments as follows:

FROM	ACCT	TO	ACCT	AMOUNT
COURT Office Supplies	A1110.411	Software	A1110.415	\$388.00
COURT Copier/Printer	A1110.412	Software	A1110.415	\$439.00
COURT Subscriptions	A1110.474	Software	A1110.415	\$198.00
COURT Building Security	A1110.457	Professional Dues	A1110.478	\$25.00
COURT Education/Training	A1110.477	Telephone	A1110.451	\$1143.64
COURT Stenographer	A1110.499	Postage	A1110.416	\$31.00

SPECIAL ITEM Contingent	A1990.4	Prof-Accting	A1310.492	\$7663.00
ASSESSOR Education/Training	A1355.477	Prof Asst	A1355.492	\$100.00
Attorney	A1420.491	Engineer	A1440.493	\$731.55
CENTRAL OPS Office Supplies	A1620.411	Heating Fuel	A1620.422	\$957.48
CENTRAL OPS Postage	A1620.416	Building Fax	A1620.453	\$52.24
CENTRAL OPS Electric EV Charging	A1620.42	Copier/Printer	A1620.412	\$469.29
CENTRAL OPS Building Repair	A1620.462	Advertising	A1670.473	\$1148.22
CENTRAL OPS Grounds Maintenance	A1620.469	Electric	A1620.421	\$33.96
CENTRAL OPS Grounds Maintenance	A1620.469	TH Supplies, Equip, Tools	A1620.464	\$194.63
CENTRAL OPS Prof-Technology	A1620.494	Telephone	A1620.451	\$1867.02
CENTRAL OPS Cleaning Service	A1620.497	Email	A1620.495	\$719.00
SPECIAL ITEM Contingent	A1990.4	Unalloc Insurance	A1910.4	\$2122.01
HWY-DOT Testing	A5010.496	Advertising	A5010.473	\$67.54
HWY-Dep Hwy Super Payroll	A5010.121	Education & Training	A5010.477	\$5997.00
HWY-Garage Repair	A5132.462	Garage Supplies	A5132.464	\$417.06
PARKS Propane	A7110.422	Electric	A7110.421	\$126.35
PARKS Propane	A7110.422	Rents/Leases	A7110.441	\$185.00
REC Prof CE-Red Cross	A7140.496	General Supplies	A7140.461	\$726.33
PLANNING Advertising	B8020.473	Prof Dues	B8020.478	\$45.00
HWY Other Hwy Supplies	DB5110.489	Equipment Rental	DB5110.442	\$150.00
HWY Liquid Calcium	DB5110.482	Gravel/Stone	DB5110.483	\$7938.65
HWY Other Hwy Supplies	DB5110.489	Pavement Marking	DB5110.487	\$219.13

Offered by: Hallenbeck, seconded motion: Pitkin
VOTE: AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck
NAY: None **Resolution adopted**

5. **Resolution#56-23: To Authorize the Broadband Committee to Study Cellular Service and to rename for such**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham (hereinafter “the Town”) recognizes the evolving challenges of cellular service within the town, affecting not only residents but also visitors passing through, and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to such a challenge, the Town wishes to study cellular service within the town to find areas where reliable coverage is not present, serving as a potential issue for emergency services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Broadband Committee expand their scope to study cell service capabilities within the town to find areas of limited coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Chatham rename the Broadband Committee to the Broadband and Cell Service Committee tasked with studying the broadband and cell service capabilities within the town, serving at the pleasure of the Town Board.

Offered by: Pitkin , seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE: AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck

NAY: None **Resolution adopted**

6. **Resolution#57-23: To Appoint a Co-Chair to the Parks and Recreation Committee.**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham recognizes the utility of having co-chairpersons to its advisory committees, and

WHEREAS, it recognizes and appreciates all of the efforts of Tim Mackerer in its parklands and toward the advancement of recreational opportunities in the Town of Chatham, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Chatham Town Board hereby appoints Tim Mackerer as Co-Chairman to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Hallenbeck

VOTE: AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck

NAY: None **Resolution adopted**

• **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Wapner - was following up on a policy regarding correspondence and Not including the actual letters in the meeting packet for public view. The public should have a chance to see what people are concerned about and what they are writing to the Board about. Wapner thought the topic was going to come up at the organizational meeting.

- Collins responded that there is no policy but there should be something for the Board next month.

Mackerer - thanked everyone for their confidence in his abilities, he will do his best to pull his weight.

- **MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

A MOTION was made by Hallenbeck to adjourn at 7:35PM. Pitkin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel, RMC

Town Clerk